The Woman's Page of The Times-Dispatch

New Top Coats

The continuance of one-piece frocks has made top coats a feature of each season. Once upon a time women in season. Once upon a time women indulged in the extravagance of a coat of English suiting for rough and stormy weather or for steamer trips; now she considers the top coat a necessity, and two or three of them in different weaves as a harmless luxury. It is really interesting work during a whole day to look over the various inventions of the manufacturers and the dressmakers in top coats. One marvels at the new ideas. Everything that has gotten into the fashioning of this epoch in gowns is reflected in overcoats.

The variety, the capriciousness, the eccentricities, and the lovely color combinations that will make this ago of dress famous has been taken into account for the outer garments.

First, there is the sturdy ragian, which drops half way between knees and ankles, and has more fuldness than any other coat of the day—only touches the body at the shoulders. It has the sleeves which give its name, many pockets, huge buttons, and is built of black and white checks more than anything eise. It is also made of dull grays, in Scotch homespun, in broad gray and black stripes, in rough black frieze and in striped blue serge. The checks hold first place when they are not too vividly contrasted.

There is a gray tone over the surface of the best ones that softens down the black and white edges and makes the cloth becoming to every one.

Next to the ragians in style and even more ropular among many athletic women are the outing coate called Mackinew, which are worn by the men of the woods in the rough Northern lands. Now that our women go on heavy trails in British Columbia, hunt moose in the Canadian wilds, they need the same kind of garments that the men do in these countries for protection and warmth. Delighted with them there they introduced them nere.

The shops quickly took up the idea and the women who never knew life beyond cobbied pavements now sport a Mackinew on a rainy morning, and they are very good-looking, too, quite as attractive on the women in the narrow street as on the women in the narrow street as on the women in the sapacious forest.

Among the other jaunty offerings of the season in top coats are English blazers. You may remember that they came into fashion last year, but they were not taken up with any degree of cordiality. Here and there one saw them on the beaches, where they were most appropriate, but the majority of them were seen in the shop windows.

I think they will meet with much more success this year, 'they fill a definite need. They are not lined, the fannel is soft and porous, they are ligh

Steamer Letters.

A letter should be a bit of its writer's self. A steamer letter affords opportunity for an ingeneous variety of happy suggestions. It may take the form of a diary. A succession of letters, one for each day, links the recipient with home and friends all the way across, from coast to coast. Steamer letters may be sent to the purser with directions for their receipt at certain intervals of the voyage.

age.

A woman who has an artist in the family, or is clever with her pencil, may send illustrated letters, with little sketches as surprises as the pages are turned. Jests, verses of poetry, parodies of familiar poems, all sorts of excursions into fun and fancy are appropriate in the composition of steamer letters.

propriate in the composition of steamer letters.

The passenger to whom no such messages are sent seems strangely solitary when others are enriched by many tangible testimonials of love. Home love is too often lacking in demonstration. There are those of us who are mute when we should be eloquent, and blind when we should have vision in the intercourse of daily life with friends. Sometimes the jar in routine made by a summer parting, if only for a few weeks or months, reveals friends to one another, and warms to enthusiasm fires of affection that have burned low and apparently faded to gray embers.—Exchange.

Fraction of the way to early the read in which are the property of the propert

Not so many moons ago it was a good fortune to attend a ball what all the mothers and fathers of a go eration ago were gathered to with their sons and daughters, the function rejoiced in the name the Confederate Ball. It was a liant social affair. Some beautiful gowns graced the occasion, many which had made former appearance in public at some distinguished s notable moments, and the town we not only ransacked for old laces at

not only ransacked for old laces jewels for the young people, but many of the older women as stand the strain donned their own ding dresses and went to the partial and going to write, soft and wond fully made as they were, but dances. It was given out by two omittee in charge that only the fashloned square dances of the fashloned square dances of the fashloned square dances, poor as music was that fiddled and piped the dancers. Now, many of us to look on with a nice laugh the away in our sieceves, and just as of us came away with only prayinterest in the whole thing. Not were the dances entirely graceful charming, but the movements swing of the bodies of the men women who took part was an altoge or novel and interesting spect. Some of the old ladles danced wrigedly, of course, and put out everybelse whenever the chance came them to do so, but there were so m others that danced adorably and bo and retreated and bowed again to the partners until these will the

that has just been broken by a main.

"Well, you see—" begins the but the girl is already lookin another partner.

Of course, it is the rage, and I belong to the present genera am surely looking from the p point of view. Indeed, they ar pretty dances, and I sat the spiratety dances, and I sat the spirate with the series of the property dances, and I sat the spirate with the series of the minutes and heard such of men talking about it, and the not say nice things, and they we complimentary to give. They so, the girls started the whole thing a can quite as easily stop it. Who known and a mere sketch of the Ricture.

BRENT WITT.

Original Fair Stalia.

A small buzaar which was success ful beyond the expectations of loriginators was a morning glory sal A profusion of morning glory vin and flowers made of paper formed the basis of the decorations, which we quite unusually pretty. These very were trailed through lattlees, the interpretary which banked the of the room and were used to the stalls, as well as for the ment table.

Some of the young women wore hats trimmed with glories, and others had wrear tificial blossoms in their one special feature of the Early Morning Booth tinctively matutinal arting the following, were figs boilers, toast rac for the early breakfast thina, dail room breakfast trays those, porridge sets

room or hall instead of i

grab bag must be of a vivacious and the costume must be one of treme oddity to attract attents.

the crowd.
One good idea is to have a connected with the history of city or district. Thus, New York have Father Knickerbocker or

drick Hudson: Philadelphir. White Penn or a fair Quakeress of exaggated proportions.

The children will love a quaint most startling old lady in how and hombazine, who goes around the community of the community